

HOLT COUNTY SENTINEL-EXTRA

OREGON, MO., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16th. 1877, 4 P. M.

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY!

J. F. SIMERO KILLS HIS WIFE

And Afterwards Himself!

Full Particulars of the Horrible Deed!

Our community was thrown into a fever of excitement between 11 and 12 o'clock to-day by the announcement that John F. Simero had shot his wife and also himself.

Citizens at once flocked to his residence where it was found that the report was only too true.

While we write an inquest is being held by Coroner King, but we have been able to glean, in advance of its report, the following particulars which may be relied on as substantially correct.

Simero and his wife had lived unhappily for many years. Yesterday she applied to Mr. Linbird to make application for her for a divorce, and it is supposed that this was the immediate cause of the trouble.

This forenoon Simero was up in town and was drinking some, although he was not intoxicated. About ten o'clock he went home and sent one of his sons after wine, and another out to hang up some meat. The latter shortly afterwards heard loud words in the house and immediately after the sound of a gun shot. He at once started up town to give the alarm, and on his way met City Marshal Foster who hurried to the scene of the difficulty. When he arrived there Simero had come out of the house and gone into the stable. In a moment afterwards Foster heard a report like the snapping of a cap and immediately after the report of a gun.

In the meantime a large body of people had assembled and upon going into the house Mrs. Simero was found lying on the floor, breathing hard, and having five shots in the face and eye. Two of the shots entered the right eye, destroying it, and apparently following the course of the optic nerve into the brain. Another shot entered the corner of the eye and two others the mouth.

Two heavy blows had been received on top of the head, from which it is supposed he knocked her down, before shooting her.

She was unconscious when discovered and sunk rapidly until about one o'clock, when she breathed her last.

Marshall Foster kept an eye on the stable which contained the murderer

and upon the arrival of Levi Oren and others they went in and found that Simero had climbed up on the hay mow and shot himself through the temple, producing instant death.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

The weapon used was a double barreled shot gun. After shooting his wife he pulled off one of his boots and went to the stable where he pulled off the other. This was in order to discharge the gun with his toes in killing himself. He was about 54 years of age, and his wife about 52. They were married about 21 years ago at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The real name of the murderer and suicide was John F. Simeradski, though he was married under the name of Radski, as is attested by his wife's marriage certificate which she yesterday showed her lawyer. In explanation of the changed name she stated that her husband had formerly, many years ago, been a soldier in the regular United States Army, but had twice deserted and re-inlisted,—each time changing his name in order to conceal his identity. He was a Russian by birth but emigrated to this country at an early age.

During the late war he was a member of Capt. Ræcker's company of the 4th M. S. M. He was wild and reckless in the army and was in all sorts of scrapes and difficulties. Since the war he has lived in Oregon, where he pursued his trade of carpenter. He was subject to periodical sprees, during which he was regarded as a dangerous man. Some years ago he was shot and slightly wounded by James T. Howell. He was afterwards bound over to keep the peace.

OTHER NOTES.

Last night he told Mr. Truax that he was tired of life and tired of work, and intended to leave the country on Monday or Tuesday. Last night his children say he was raving and boisterous.

During their twenty-one years of married life his wife had borne him ten children, seven of which survive,—named and aged as follows: John F., aged 21, now clerking for Wm. Loving of St. Joseph; Louise, aged 19, now living near White Cloud, Kansas, having been driven from home by her father's violence; Henry, aged 18; Daniel, aged 13; William, aged 10; and Mary Ellen, aged 11.

The scene of the tragedy is a small frame house of three rooms in the western part of the city.

The unfortunate family of the deceased have the sympathy of all our people in this terrible affliction.

